The International & Canadian Child Rights Partnership (ICCRP) was formed in 2015. Through our prior work on the interconnections of children’s rights to participation and protection, the ICCRP identified a critically overlooked element in realizing child rights: intergenerational relationships. The expanded ICCRP will now focus on this new, innovative research direction to examine how intergenerational relationships can transcend current barriers to implementing children’s rights, through intergenerational partnerships, in research, policy, and practice.

Research Objectives

1. Expand conceptual models for intergenerational partnerships;
2. Investigate processes for fostering intergenerational partnerships to support child rights, including youth activism;
3. Identify and develop relational practices (intergenerational, decolonial, cross-national, cross-cultural, ethical) that can reform and stimulate research, public policy, and practice to support child rights; and
4. Explore and analyze child rights education environments and how they support or hinder understanding of child rights among children, as well as intergenerational partnerships.

Primary Research Question

How can intergenerational relationships contribute to, challenge, and transcend barriers to realizing child rights?

Research Streams (RSs) & Case Studies (CSs)

RS 1: EXPANDING INTERGENERATIONAL CONCEPTUAL MODELS
- CS 1a: Growing up on the Streets: Led by van Blerk (CoA, U Dundee)
- CS 1b: Child Protection: Led by Kovarikova (CoA, Child Welfare PAC) and Leschied (Col., Western U)

RS 2: CHILD AND YOUTH ACTIVISM
- CS 2a: Child and Youth Participation in Governance and Decision-Making: Led by Stephenson (Col., World Vision International)
- CS 2b: Child Activism Research, Policy, and Practice: Led by Jamieson (CoA, U Cape Town), Rizzini (CoA, PUC-Rio U), Ruiz-Casares (CoA, McGill U), Tisdall (CoA, U Edinburgh), Wright (CoA, IICRD), and Whalen (CoA, NB Child and Youth Advocate)

RS 3 DEVELOPING RELATIONAL PRACTICES IN RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICY INITIATIVES
- CS 3b: Safe, Inclusive Participative Pedagogy (SIPP): Led by Tisdall (CoA, U Edinburgh)

The Expanded ICCRP

Alongsde project director (PD) Dr. Tara Collins, project manager (PM) Vanessa Zufelt, and Child and Youth Participation Coordinator Sachi Shukul from X University (Ryerson), the ICCRP includes young people with lived experience, 39 researchers, and 30 partner organizations from universities, NGOs, major human rights institutions, and governments in Canada and in multiple countries across the Americas, Africa, Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

Visit our website: ryerson.ca/iccrp

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Our four WGs are integral to the research processes in all RSs, as key vehicles for synthesis of case-study data and incisive application of our theoretical approach of relational child rights. Each RS and WG has been discreetly developed to include young people, expert and emerging researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and a diverse mix of co-applicants, collaborators, and partners, as well as geographies and generations. WGs guide case studies in relation to the following four themes: ethics, participatory methods, conceptual interconnections, and policy.

Working Groups (WGs)

Our four WGs are integral to the research processes in all RSs, as key vehicles for synthesis of case-study data and incisive application of our theoretical approach of relational child rights. Each RS and WG has been discreetly developed to include young people, expert and emerging researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and a diverse mix of co-applicants, collaborators, and partners, as well as geographies and generations. WGs guide case studies in relation to the following four themes: ethics, participatory methods, conceptual interconnections, and policy.

Intergenerational Advisory Committee (IAC)

IAC members have been carefully chosen to augment ICCRP expertise, perspectives, and best practices for intergenerational partnerships. Members are Canadian and international young people and adults, who meet biannually, to provide intergenerational advice to the SC on directions and processes of the ICCRP. The IAC includes 8 adult CoLs and 14 young people from case study projects and partners. Child and Youth IAC Members: Still to be recruited.

Adult IAC Collaborators: Pearson (Carleton U), Greenwood (U Northern BC), Karunan (Thammasat U), Mezmur (U Western Cape), Myers (Independent Researcher), Vergara (U Santiago), Johnson (Goldsmiths U), Corona (UAM).

Partners Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC works closely with the SC to advise on research directions to ensure that the ICCRP maintains its focus on research, policy, and practice and remains responsive to partner contexts and priorities. It plays a crucial role in supporting the interpretation and relevance of findings from the perspectives of national and international organizations directly involved in children’s rights research, policy, and practice. Confirmed Partners Include: Families Canada, Int’l Child Protection Network of Canada, Plan Canada, Terre des Hommes, Eurochild, IICRD, World Vision, & others.

Knowledge Mobilization Committee (KMbC)

The KMbC includes team members with extensive relevant expertise and access to stakeholder networks, who facilitate multidirectional, national and international flow of knowledge across academia and society, furthering intellectual exchange with partners, researchers, young people, and practitioners. At any given moment, at least 5 IAC youth members and 5 partners also sit on the KMbC to inform KMb approaches to advance academic, practitioner and youth-accessible KMb.

What is SSHRC?

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is the federal research funding agency of Canada that promotes and supports research and research training in the humanities and social sciences. Partnership Grants support formal partnerships between academic researchers, businesses and other partners that will advance knowledge and understanding on critical issues of intellectual, social, economic and cultural significance. In 2021, the ICCRP officially began work on its seven-year SSHRC partnership grant (PG).
ICCRP Team & Timeline

Co-Applicants (16)

Aurelia Di Santo - X University (Ryerson)
Christian Whalen - New Brunswick Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
E Kay M Tisdall - University of Edinburgh
Holly Doyle-Mackaway - Macquarie University
Irene Rizzini - Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janeiro
Jane Kovarikova - Child Welfare Political Action Committee Canada
Jennifer Martin - X University (Ryerson)

Judy Finlay - X University (Ryerson)
Laura Wright - International Institute for Child Rights and Development
Lorraine van Blerk - University of Dundee
Lucy Jamieson - University of Cape Town
Maria Herczog - Eötvös Loránd University
Monica Ruiz-Casares - McGill University
Natasha Blanchet-Cohen - Concordia University
Patricio Cuevas-Parra - University of Edinburgh
Virginia Caputo - Carleton University

Collaborators (23)

Alana Kapell - Save the Children Canada
Alan Leschield - Western
Ana Vergara - Universidad de Santiago de Chile
Angie Osachoff - Equitas: International Centre for Human Rights Education
Benyam Dawit Mezmur - University of the Western Cape
Darren Bird - Learning for Well-being Foundation
Jessica Taft - University of California, Santa Cruz
Kathryn Underwood - X University (Ryerson)
Kristen Burchill - Terre des hommes
Landon Pearson - Carleton University
Laura Lee - International Institute for Child Rights and Development
Lisa Wolf - UNICEF Canada
Margo Greenwood - University of Northern British Columbia
Mary Ann Powell - No Institutional Affiliation
Mona Paré - University of Ottawa
Neziwa Titi - University of Cape Town
Nicole D’Souza - McGill University
Noah Kenneally - MacEwan University
Paul Stephenson - World Vision
Vicky Johnson - University of the Highlands and Islands (Millennium Institute)
Victor Prasad Karunan - Thammasat University
William Myers - No Institutional Affiliation
Yolanda Corona Caraveo - Metropolitan Autonomous University

Partners (30)

Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children - Canada
Casa da Criança e do Adolescente - Brazil
Children’s Parliament - Scotland
Child Rights Connect - Switzerland
Child Welfare Political Action Committee Canada - Canada
Commissioner for Children Western Cape - South Africa
Concordia University - Canada
Equal Education - South Africa
Equitas: International Centre for Human Rights Education - Canada
Eurochild - Belgium
Families Canada - Canada
Government of New Brunswick - Canada
International Center for Research and Policy on Childhood at Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) - Brazil
International Child Protection Network of Canada - Canada

International Institute for Child Rights and Development - Canada
Learning for Well-being Foundation - The Netherlands
McGill University - Canada
People for Education - Canada
Plan International Canada - Canada
Public Health Agency of Canada - Canada
Save the Children Canada - Canada
SHERPA University Institute - Canada
Southern Cross University - Australia
Terre des Hommes - Switzerland
UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti - Italy
UNICEF South Africa - South Africa
University of Cape Town - South Africa
University of Dundee - Scotland
University of Edinburgh - Scotland
World Vision International - USA

ICCRP Timeline